



The INTERCOM

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
Cape Canaveral Chapter, Inc.



2025 ROTC Scholarships

See the story and more photos on pages 10 & 11



Photo by Amir Pishdad, Sr.

Front Row L-R: Cadet Capt Levi Anderson from Astronaut HS who will be attending Florida Institute of Technology; Cadet Lt Col Savion Kirby from Melbourne HS who will be attending the U.S. Air Force Academy; Ms. Victoria Nelson from Holy Trinity Academy who will be attending the U.S. Naval Academy; Cadet LTC Connor Hoffman from Viera HS who will be attending the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy; Cadet Major Joey Shine from Viera HS who will be attending Embry Riddle Aeronautical University

Back Row L-R: Cadet 1LT Zachary Perez from Viera HS who will be attending Embry Riddle Aeronautical University; Cadet Alex Gregoire from Merritt Island HS who will be attending Auburn University, AL; Cadet LT Col Gideon Pike from Satellite HS who will be attending The Citadel Military College, SC



To take action with MOAA, visit: <https://moaa.quorum.us/>
MOAA and MOAAC are non-partisan organizations



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Steve Cusick, Captain, USN (Ret), President, MOAACC

U.S. Space Force-Semper Supra

Hello again and welcome to the June 2025 edition of the INTERCOM. By the way, we really appreciate your active attendance and support of our many MOAACC events.

This month we focus on our newest branch of the Armed Forces, the **U.S. Space Force** which is quickly growing in our area. Susie Dabrowski and I were honored to attend a recent dinner briefing at the TIDES Club which specifically focused on the Space Training & Readiness Command (**STARCOM**) commanded by Major General Timothy Sejba. STARCOM will be moving its headquarters to Patrick later this year. For more information, please see its website: <https://www.starcom.spaceforce.mil>

Here is a short summary of the Space Force commands in our local area:

STARCOM - Its overall mission is to prepare the Space Force to prevail over our adversaries in competition and conflict through innovative education, training, doctrine and test. A major command headed up by a two-star general.

SPACE DELTA 10 - A "Delta" is very similar to a "Wing" in the Air Force. Space Delta 10's overall mission is to develop Space Force doctrine and tactics while executing wargames and lessons learned in the process.

SPACE LAUNCH DELTA 45 - Formerly known as Patrick Air Force Base, its primary mission is to ensure the safe and successful launch of both U.S. government and commercial payloads into orbit. It includes the base operations functions as well as Cape Canaveral Space Force Station.

Space Force members are known as "Guardians" similar to how members of the U.S. Army are called Soldiers, and members of the Air Force are called Airmen. The title of guardian traces its heritage to Air Force Space Command's motto "Guardians of the High Frontier".

The Space Force Association (www.ussfa.org) is the professional organization keeping us informed of all the latest news and developments in this important warfighting domain. Susie Dabrowski is our MOAACC point of contact for more information.

ANOTHER NOTE: PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD TO INCREASE OUR MEMBERSHIP

Hans Hunt reports that we have TEN new members this month. We are getting closer to our goal of increasing our MOAACC membership to 1000! Invite a friend and bring your friends and neighbors to one of our events.

Looking forward to seeing you soon!



EDITOR'S NOTE

John Franco, COL (ret) USAF

Welcome to the June 2025 edition of the *Intercom*. I think many of you would agree that May was a month that required our chapter to be "firing on all cylinders." High school JROTC award ceremonies, MOAACC JROTC Awards luncheon, spectacular tri-county enlistment ceremony at Viera High School stadium for 152 enlistees, new officer commissioning ceremonies, booth at Wickham Park for veterans' weekend observance, Meet and Greet at One Senior Place and Memorial Day observance including speaking engagements.

From the Library of Congress: "END OF WAR!" the headlines screamed on September 2, 1945. Many decades later, we continue to recognize the significance of the end of World War II. The Allied victories over Germany (in May 1945) and over Japan (in August 1945) brought forth worldwide jubilation: after years of deprivation, hardship, and separation, peace was finally at hand." Let us remember and thank God for the great men and women called the "greatest generation" who fought for and supported these victories.

JUNE EVENTS

(Click Event for Details)

- 6/5 Current Affairs Forum w/COL Jeff Rogers, USA, Retired - Topic: The Army - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 6/10 On-The-Go Luncheon - 11:30 AM
@ Margarita Island - Viera
- 6/12 TMBC - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 6/17 MOAACC Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - Chapel
- 6/17 MOAACC Luncheon - CANCELLED
- 6/19 TMBC - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 6/26 TMBC - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole

To see details for these events,
visit <https://moaacc.org/events>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 2 President's Perspective, Editor's Note
- 3 Article Submission & Rules
- 4 Legislative Affairs
- 5 Healthy Living
- 6 Points to Ponder
- 7 Mark Your Calendar!
- 8 Membership Update, TAPS
- 9 Featured Article
- 10 May MOACC Luncheon
- 13 MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation
- 14 Scholarship Corporation
- 17 Directory

See more in the online version
at <https://moaacc.org>

INTERCOM Photo & Article Submission Rules

PHOTOS:

- Photos must be in "High Resolution" in .jpg format and sent as an **"Attachment."**
- When sending photos, select "actual size" on computer or cell phone and send as **"Attachment."**
- Submit only up to two photos per article. More photos may be accepted if necessary.
- All photos must have "captions" of who, what, when, where and why. Indicate who took the photo.

ARTICLES:

- Articles must be in Microsoft "Word" format in Times New Roman 12 font. **PDF NOT ACCEPTED**
- LIMITS: One article per email, not more than 375 words. Each Article must include Author Name & Rank

DEADLINES & SUBMISSION EMAIL:

- Photos & Articles are **DUE NO LATER THAN the 15th of each month or sooner.** Please send ALL submissions **ONLY** to the following: intercom@moaacc.org
- **DO NOT SEND Cc TO EVERYONE**

INTERCOM PUBLICATION:

- THE INTERCOM is published 12 times annually by the Cape Canaveral Chapter, Inc. (MOAACC), an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Alexandria, VA
- Contents of the Intercom articles are opinions solely of the authors and do not express the policy or official views of MOAA or The Cape Canaveral Chapter (MOAACC)
- The advertisements that appear in this publication do not reflect an endorsement by MOAA or by MOAACC
- Comments and suggestion are welcome. Contact EXECUTIVE EDITOR: intercom@moaacc.org

PUBLIC RELATIONS & MARKETING COMMITTEES

CHAIRMAN: John Franco

INTERCOM EDITOR: John Franco

ASSOCIATE EDITORS: Rita Shapiro and Fran Majcher

LAYOUT/GRAPHICS: Jeremiah Zeleny

PRESS RELEASES & MEDIA LIAISON: Marilyn Sanford

DISTRIBUTION: Amir Pishdad, Sr.

WEB LINK AND DIGITAL DISTRO: Mike Schroeder

PHOTOGRAPHERS: Skip Taylor, Amir Pishdad, Jr., Jose Prieto, Amir Pishdad, Sr.

ADVERTISING: Vacant

ADVERTISERS/SPONSORS: Donn Weaver, Mike Schroeder, Steve Bond, Brian Whalen

WEBMASTER: Mike Schroeder

FIVE THINGS: Steve Bond

FACEBOOK: Vacant

MOAA/Florida Council of Chapters Liaison: Marilyn Sanford



LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

John R. McMahon, BG, USA (Retired)

Reconciliation Review

As the Reconciliation process continues in the Congress, and more specifically in the House, a quick review of the process in the context of the overall fiscal situation is warranted. Reconciliation is a tight-wire act in which the Congress avoids the Senate filibuster threat while threading the needle between a Joint budget resolution (a Total Amount target with “sub-targets” which were passed in early April) and subsequent Committees’ efforts to meet those targets across multiple appropriations (i.e. programs). But there are several other restrictions that apply. First, it can only be used to pass provisions that directly affect federal spending, revenues, or the debt limit (this means discretionary spending remains subject to the annual appropriations process). Second, no permanent changes (new law) for issues like concurrent receipt, for example, can be made through this process. Reconciliation is basically the current Congress’s opportunity to address the previous Congress’s budget, hence the name reconciliation. As of today, the proposed Defense budget sits at about \$1 Trillion, an increase of \$150 Billion over last year, with several “bumps” to programs advocated by MOAA. Time will tell what gets passed.

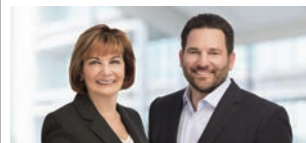
Late last month, I attended a virtual Legislative Affairs update hosted by MOAA. The following highlights some of the key takeaways. The “Political Environment” was characterized as polarized in the Congress, with the deficit, debt, and inflation as burgeoning issues. Housing and food insecurity, elections and other social issues are also mentioned as contentious. Next, a comparison of “where federal money goes” with snapshots from 1966 and 2024 was offered. In 1966, discretionary spending consumed 70% of the federal budget, with the corresponding 30% consumed by mandatory spending (Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, etc. In 2024, the reverse is true—mandatory spending sits at 74% while discretionary spending sits at 26%. Looking at “discretionary spending” in FY 2024, 47% was spent on Defense and 53% on Non-Defense. In the “mandatory spending” realm in FY 2024 programs, Social Security took 34%, Medicare 22%, Medicaid 15%, Income Security 9%, Military/Civilian retirement 5%, and Other 15%. The upshot is that while the pie for mandatory spending is growing (74% today), the pie for discretionary spending is shrinking (26%), of which almost half is dedicated to Defense. The squeeze is on, and Congress is beginning, with President Trump’s support, to address it responsibly.

The “DoD Environment” was described as tenuous with the observation that for the past 28 years, the Fiscal Year has begun either under a Continuing Resolution (CR) or a

government shutdown, both of which generate uncertainty and put unnecessary handcuffs on military spending. This fragile situation is exacerbated by flat budgets and unpredictable funding, rising rates of global threats and regional conflicts, recruiting challenges, impacts to the military healthcare system, sexual assault and suicide rates, diminished quality of life for servicemember and family housing, and an appetite to reduce personnel and retiree earned benefits. Even though it consumes almost half of the discretionary spending, Defense Spending is currently about 2.4% of GDP, well below its historical (1975-2024) average of 4.2% of GDP. Finally, when looking at “personnel costs as a percentage of the DoD budget”, the current figures show personnel costs at 22% of the DoD budget and healthcare at 7% of the DoD budget. The remaining 71% goes to operations, maintenance, equipment, ammunition and the rest.

MOAA concludes by noting that in the 119th Congress, only 19% members of have some military experience. Exactly 100 Members—82 in the House and 18 in the Senate, down from about 61% in 1983. With this understanding of the overall situation in the Congress and the Nation and the world, MOAA, one of the Hill’s Top Lobbyists 18 years in a row, stands ready to protect and defend all ranks of all eight uniformed services, especially when their earned pay and benefits are threatened. It is a proud legacy and one that we in the Cape Canaveral Chapter take seriously.

Your future. Our focus.



Susan Morse
Senior Vice President—
Wealth Management
321-722-5426
susan.morse@ubs.com

**Indian River Wealth
Management Group**
UBS Financial Services Inc.
6905 North Wickham Road
Suite 200
Melbourne, FL 32940
321-729-6770

Daniel Levy, CFA, CPWA®
Financial Advisor
US Navy Veteran
321-722-5427
daniel.levy@ubs.com

advisors.ubs.com/indianriverwmg



For designation disclosures, visit ubs.com/us/en/designation-disclosures. As a firm providing wealth management services to clients, UBS Financial Services Inc. offers investment advisory services in its capacity as an SEC-registered investment adviser and brokerage services in its capacity as an SEC-registered broker-dealer. Investment advisory services and brokerage services are separate and distinct, differ in material ways and are governed by different laws and separate arrangements. It is important that you understand the ways in which we conduct business, and that you carefully read the agreements and disclosures that we provide to you about the products or services we offer. For more information, please review the client relationship summary provided at ubs.com/relationshipsummary, or ask your UBS Financial Advisor for a copy. © UBS 2025. All rights reserved. UBS Financial Services Inc. is a subsidiary of UBS Group AG. Member FINRA/SIPC. ED_12242024-1 Exp.: 12/31/2025

HEALTHY LIVING

Rita Shapiro, MA DPT

June is Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month

Is Alzheimer preventable? We do not know that as of yet but there is extensive research in progress to study just that.

Per the Alzheimer Association, research is still evolving, but evidence is strong that people can reduce their risk by making key lifestyle changes. Based on this research, the Alzheimer's Association offers following 10 Healthy Habits for your Brain:

Challenge your mind: Be curious! Put your brain to work and do something that is new for you. Learn a new skill. Try something artistic. Challenging your mind may have short- and long-term benefits for your brain.

Stay in school: Education reduces the risk of cognitive decline and dementia. Encourage youth to stay in school and pursue the highest level of training possible. Continue your own education by taking a class at a local library or college, or online.

Get moving: Engage in regular exercise. This includes activities that raise your heart rate and increase blood flow to the brain and body. Find ways to build more movement into your day — walking, dancing, gardening — whatever works for you!

Protect your head: Help prevent an injury to your head. Wear a helmet for activities like biking and wear a seatbelt. Protect yourself while playing sports. Do what you can to prevent falls, especially for older adults.

Be smoke-free: Quitting smoking can lower the risk of cognitive decline back to levels similar to those who have not smoked. It's never too late to stop.

Control your blood pressure: Medications can help lower high blood pressure. And healthy habits like eating right and physical activity can help, too. Work with a health care provider to control your blood pressure.

Manage diabetes: Type 2 diabetes can be prevented or controlled by eating healthier, increasing physical activity and taking medication, if necessary.

Eat right: Eating healthier foods can help reduce your risk of cognitive decline. This includes more vegetables and leaner meats/proteins, along with foods that are less processed and lower in fat. Choose healthier meals and snacks that you enjoy and are available to you.

Maintain a healthy weight: Talk to your health care provider about the weight that is healthy for you. Other healthy habits on this list — eating right, exercising and sleeping well — can help with maintaining a healthy weight.

Sleep well: Good quality sleep is important for brain health. Stay off screens before bed and make your sleep

space as comfortable as possible. Do all you can to minimize disruptions. If you have any sleep-related problems, such as sleep apnea, talk to a health care provider.

Take charge of your brain health today — it's never too early or too late to start.

Reference: <https://www.alz.org/>



Serve in a New Way: Join a Clinical Trial

Your dedication to service has made a difference—now, you can help shape the future of medicine. At ClinCloud Research, we offer clinical trials for individuals looking to contribute to medical advancements while accessing cutting-edge treatments.

- Compensation for Time & Travel
- Free Access to Innovative Treatments
- Improve Healthcare for Future Generations

No insurance required. Connect with us today!



7000 Spyglass Court,
Suite 320
Viera, FL 32940
(407) 680-0534

ClinCloudResearch.com

ENROLLING NOW: Alzheimer's Disease, Asthma, Healthy Adults, Liver Disease

ADVERTISEMENT



Exclusively Serving Veterans And
Military Families Like Yours.

Experience Unparalleled
Personal Service From a
Team of Seasoned
Professionals

- Focused Solely on the
Military Community.



Richard Proctor
Relationship Manager

(689) 777-0465
rproctor@aafmaa.com

AAFMMA Wealth Management & Trust

FINANCIAL PLANNING • INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT • TRUST SERVICES

aafmaatrust.com [f @aafmaatrust](https://www.facebook.com/aafmaatrust) [@awm&t](https://www.linkedin.com/company/awm&t) [@aafmaa_trust](https://www.instagram.com/aafmaa_trust)

© 2024 AAFMMA Wealth Management & Trust LLC. Information provided by AAFMMA Wealth Management & Trust LLC is not intended to be tax or legal advice. Nothing contained in this communication should be interpreted as such. We encourage you to seek guidance from your tax or legal advisor. Past performance does not guarantee future results.

ADVERTISEMENT

POINTS TO PONDER

Chap, LtCol, Thomas Unrath USAF (Ret)

This month I continue the series of "Points to Ponder" articles featuring each of the service songs from our military branches. All branches have a "Song," and we've considered three of them in the past months. The Navy has a song, "Anchors Aweigh," but we'll depart from the songs this month. We have the Navy Hymn to consider.

The Navy hymn is interesting in several ways. Most important is, as a hymn, it is a prayer set to music. It is not intended to rouse the hearers/singers to a stirring, martial state of being. Rather, it implores us to consider our place in the world as supplicants to the Almighty.

Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bid'st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep;
O hear us when we cry to thee,
For those in peril on the sea.

Another thing which sets this hymn apart is that it is "owned" by both the US and Royal navies. The lyrics were written in 1861 by a Church of England priest, the Rev. William Whiting. The music was by a British composer of note for many other hymns, the Rev John Dykes.

The hymn was brought to the US Naval Academy in 1879 by the Midshipman Choir director, LtCdr. Charles J. Train. He began the practice of singing the Hymn at each worship service at the Academy.

The other thing to note is the hymn has been adopted by each of the other services. By changing the lyrics, and especially the last line of each verse, the hymn is made pertinent to each.

The verses begin differently, of course, but end similarly:

"From every peril on the land."
"For those in peril in the air."
"From every peril to the Corp."
"Keep them safe from peril in the deep"
"Bless those who wait for their return."
"Watch those who guard our coasts."
"For those who soar through outer space."

"O Father hear us when we pray
For those For those we love so far away."

We share so much in our service to this country. We share this prayer as well Amen



In Home Care – Wherever You Call Home

Our Care Pros provide:

- *Companionship Care *Personal Care
- *Meals & Nutrition *Transportation
- *Household Duties *Respite Care
- *Hospice Care Support

321-345-1003

Call for a free, no obligation appointment

Trusted and Credentialed VA Provider

HomeInstead.com/438

HHA 299993664

Each Home Instead (r) is an independently owned and operated franchise of Home Instead, Inc. An Honor Company. (c) 2024 Home, Inc.
FMBPO523.US

ADVERTISEMENT

**Honored to provide
specialized care
and recognition
to our nation's heroes.**



**St. Francis
REFLECTIONS[®]
Lifestage Care**
Established 1977 • Licensed 1990



See our hospice care quality scores at
www.medicare.gov/care-compare

OUR SERVICES

Hospice
Palliative
Grief Support
We Honor Veterans



www.ReflectionsLSC.org | 321.269.4240
Reflecting Life, Love and Compassion

ADVERTISEMENT



Mark Your Calendar!

Save the Dates for upcoming MOAACC Events:

15 June 2025: Scholarship Application Process Closes

15 July 2025: Scholarship Award Presentations

19 August 2025: MOAACC Luncheon w/ Dr. Doris Newman, DO, FAAO, Florida Campus Dean

08 November 2025: 1st Annual Vystar MOAACC Veterans Day Recognition Dinner

18 November 2025: MOAACC Luncheon & Annual Membership Business Meeting

5 December 2025: MOAACC Annual Christmas Dinner Dance

13 December 2025: 4th Annual Space Force 10-Miler

MOAACC On-the-Go-Luncheon Tuesday, June 10, 2025

Margarita Island - Viera

5360 Stadium Pkwy

Rockledge, FL 32955

This month's 'On-the-Go' we will meet at Margarita Island - Viera. For reservations or additional information phone Toni Lowe at (321) 474-6888. Cut off for reservations, cancellations is the Friday prior, so she can inform the restaurant on how many are coming. Cost: Per individual. As always, please honor your reservation or call Toni if you cannot attend so she can inform the restaurant in a timely fashion. Everyone is invited so please join us.

STAY UP TO DATE - VISIT:

www.MOAACC.org

Are you receiving the MOAACC Five Things e-News?

Are you a published MOAACC Author?

← Check out the MOAACC website for more information.



MOAACC MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Welcome our New Members!

Last Name	First Name	Prefix	Service	Component	Duty Status	Membership Level	Member's Sponsor
Balog	Todd	LTC	Army	Regular	Retired	Annual	Steve Bond
Brix	Kai	MAJ	Army	National Guard	Retired	Annual	Steve Bond
Ehlers	David	CAPT	Coast Guard	Regular	Retired	Annual	Hans Hunt
Hunt	Sabrina	Mrs	Spouse	Other	Other	Spouse	Hans Hunt
Jaeger	Terese	Mrs	Spouse	Other	Other	Spouse	Mike Jaeger
Johnson	Tramar	1LT	Army	Regular	Former	Annual	Steve Cusick
Katz	Robert	Mr	Associate	Other	Other	Annual	Susan Dabrowski
Ketchum	James	Lt Col	Air Force	Regular	Retired	Annual	
Ketchum	Patricia	Mrs	Spouse	Other	Other	Spouse	
Morris	Heather	LT	Navy	Regular	Active	Annual	Steve Cusick



Former, Active, Retired Military Officers,
Warrant Officers & Spouses

JOIN

MOAA CAPE CANAVERAL CHAPTER (MOAACC)

- Advocacy from the National to the State and Local levels
- Philanthropy and Community Service
- Comradery with a Purpose

NEVER STOP SERVING

Visit us at: www.MOAACC.org/membership

As Military Officers, our shared experience of service forms a bond like no other. An while MOAA is based in Washington, D.C., the heart and soul of our organization lies in our local community.

For more information about us and what we do, visit our website at www.MOAACC.org



TAPS

MOAA CAPE CANAVERAL CHAPTER MEMBER, AUXILIARY, and SPOUSE DEATHS

March 2025 deaths listed
for May 2025 Intercom

NONE TO REPORT



A Great Send-Off: The 2025 Military Enlistment Ceremony of the Space Coast

On 15 May nobody played football or soccer at the Viera High School Stadium, but hundreds were there. The event, which began at 6 pm on a warm breezy evening was one of the best community events veterans and others in the community who attended have enjoyed - the First Annual Enlistment Ceremony of the Space Coast.

There were too many to name in person who made this happen. But, to Brevard Public Schools, Viera High School, all Brevard JROTC Units, the event committee, all the recruiters and commanders, the many media reps, local public officials, Rolling Thunder and other riders, MOAACC, DAV and other vet groups in attendance THANK YOU on behalf of the community, the enlistees and their families and friends.

It was a great honor to have BG John Dreska, US Army who is based at the Pentagon, to come down as the keynote speaker as well as several elected local officials who joined Dreska on the stage. They all congratulated the enlistees, much like the "High School Graduation" which happened at Viera in the same place on 23 May 2025.



The greatest sense of appreciation goes to the 152 Enlistees in whose honor we came together. They also represented several hundred others in Brevard and nearby counties, in a record setting recruitment year who could not be there. WHAT AN EVENING!

Here were some observations from attendees:

— One veteran said, "nothing like this happened to me and 95 percent of veterans, when they enlisted". Being honored and launched by the community is huge. Seniors in High School who enlist are usually recognized at their local schools this time of year I personally saw many individual high schools do so at awards ceremonies this year but taking it to this level is another plateau.

— The event committee decided to provide their first military challenge coins to the enlistees. But it was also decided, during the event, to share the coins with the stage dignitaries' team, recruiters, staff and others who helped so much and was rewarding in itself. Seven veterans' organizations

came together to pay for them. One such coin was given to a 99-year-old WWII Veteran Maj George Rosenfield, USA, (Ret).

— Many were worried that the stands seemed sparsely covered at about 5 minutes before the ceremony was to begin (about 350), but all that concern vanished when over 300 JROTC cadets escorted the enlistees into the stadium and filled the football field space.

— From the Constitution Truck at the entrance, to the US Congressional Letter handed out by Keith Van Buren from Rep Haridopolos' office, the oath, the comments by all speakers, and the impact of service to country before self was huge. The perfectly timed fly over by the BCSO Huey Helicopter following the fantastic National Anthem rendition, and the concluding fireworks, took patriotism to a very high level.

The decision to hold this event was made in late February at the suggestion of one of the Army Recruiters based in the Rockledge Office, SGT Joshua Arocho, who was also a member of the event planning team. Arocho had seen a dramatic increase in recruitment numbers for 2024-25 over past years and wondered if this could happen in a short time. Plans are already on the drawing board for 2026 as many want to make this an annual celebration.

The event team included BPS leaders especially School Board Member Matt Susin who also served as MC, BPS Community Relations Officer Yvette Cruz, and members from the veteran, active duty, BPS group created two years ago, the Education and Citizenship Armed Forces Coalition of the Space Coast (ECAC). Special thanks are due to all of them!!

Finally, Thanks to multiple media reps and hundreds of cell phone camera shots which showed up on social media.



Launching Toward Success:

MOAACC Honors Military Academy and College ROTC Scholarship Bound High School Seniors

By: LT (Ret) Daniel Wilson, USN



The Military Officers Association of America, Cape Canaveral Chapter (MOAACC) on May 20, 2025, held its annual Luncheon honoring Brevard County High School seniors who have received an Appointment to a U.S. Service Academy, Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Scholarship, or acceptance to a private Military Academy.

Representing these exceptional Brevard students, MOAACC hosted (9) highly qualified and proven students from various schools who were obviously proud of their achievements and excited about the adventures ahead. Representing students included:

- Cadet Capt Levi Anderson from Astronaut HS who will be attending Florida Institute of Technology
- Ms. Victoria Nelson from Holy Trinity Academy who will be attending the U.S. Naval Academy
- Cadet Lt Col Savion Kirby from Melbourne HS who will be attending the U.S. Air Force Academy
- Cadet Alex Gregoire from Merritt Island HS who will be attending Auburn University, AL
- Cadet LT Col Gideon Pike from Satellite HS who will be attending The Citadel Military College, SC
- Cadet LTC Connor Hoffman from Viera HS who will be attending the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
- Cadet Major Joey Shine from Viera HS who will be attending Embry Riddle Aeronautical University
- Cadet 1LT Zachary Perez from Viera HS who will be attending Embry Riddle Aeronautical University

Also in attendance were Dr. Mark Rendell, Superintendent for Brevard Public Schools, along with our five (5) School Board Members including Megan Wright from District 1, Gene Trent from District 2, John Thomas from District 3, Matthew Susin from District 4, and Katye Campbell from District 5. In addition, we were honored to have exceptional school representation from Brevard High School Principals including Courtney Lundy of Satellite HS, Debora Lubbers of Merritt Island HS, Cyndi Buist of Holy Trinity Episcopal Academy, and Debra Abell the Vice Principal of Astronaut HS.

Along with these incredible mentors who have worked so hard, we were also joined by various HS ROTC Instructors who have mentored these students for one or many years, reflecting to them an honorable reflection of our U.S. Military programs. These included: LTC Robert Irick of Cocoa Beach, Lt Col Robin Athey of Melbourne HS, Maj Lonnie Spangler of Merritt Island, LTC Todd Balog of Viera HS and (Assistant Instructor) CSM Sean Branham of Astronaut HS.

Of course the event would not have happened if not for the MOAACC team and leadership from our MOAACC President and host CAPT Stephen Cusick (Navy Ret), Student Affairs Representative and Master At Arms LTC Hans Hunt (Army Ret), MAJ Bill Adams (Army Ret) who prayed us in and blessed us out, CPT Donn Weaver (Army Former), President of the Good Deeds Foundation, Inc., and LT Daniel Wilson (Navy Ret) as the Master of Ceremonies. Special recognition must also be made to Dr. Rendell and COL Steve Bond (Army Ret) our MOAA Florida Council of Chapters representative for joining the MOAACC team in presenting each of the Students with a MOAA Certificate and MOAACC medal.

Photos by Amir Pishdad, Sr.



L-R: Hans Hunt, Steve Kusick, Cadet Kirby, LTC Athey



L-R: Steve Kusick, Cadet Pike, Ms. Lundy



L-R: Hans Hunt, Steve Kusick, Cadet Hoffman, LTC Balog



L-R: Hans Hunt, Steve Kusick, Cadet Gregoir, Maj Spangler



L-R: Hans Hunt, Steve Kusick, Cadet Perez, LTC Balog



L-R: Hans Hunt, Steve Kusick, Cadet Shine, LTC Balog



L-R: Hans Hunt, Steve Kusick, Cadet Anderson, CSM Sean Branham



L-R: Hans Hunt, Steve Kusick, Cadet Nelson, Cyndi Buist

Photos by Amir Pishdad, Sr.

Florida Tech ROTC Commissions three new Army Lieutenants



Colonel Steve Bond (USA, Ret)--MOAACC, congratulates New Army 2nd Lieutenants at the Florida Tech Commissioning Ceremony on May 9th with commissioning guests and ROTC cadre. Front Row from Left—Steve Bond and new 2nd Lieutenants Nicholas King, Daniel Ochoa Perez, and Juyoul Lee. Center Row--Ms. Dana Washington, and CPT Zachery Smith (FLA Tech ROTC Cadre). Back Row from Left: LTC Rob Stillings, Guest Speaker Colonel James Jenkins III (USA, Ret), and SFC Jason Watson, MSG Alan Roche, Joe Matthews, and MSG Michael Johnson (all ROTC Cadre).

The Florida Institute of Technology Army ROTC Panther Battalion held their spring ceremony to commission three new Army Second Lieutenants on Friday, May 9th. The Ceremony was held in the All Faiths Center on the Florida Tech campus. The new Lieutenants took their commissioning oath of office and pinned on new “gold bars”—the rank insignia of Second Lieutenants in the ceremony. Families, friends, ROTC instructors, and other cadets were present to witness the event. All three of the new Army Officers completed requirements to receive master’s degrees at the Florida Tech Spring Commencement, and all three have prior enlisted service in the Army. In the ceremony, they heard messages and congratulations from the President of Florida Tech, John Nicklow (Ph.D.) and Guest Speaker, Colonel James Jenkins III (USA, Retired). Colonel Jenkins retired from the Army in 2014, and his last assignment was as the Deputy Commander for Army Space and Missile Command. He is currently the President and General Manager for the Armed Forces portfolio at BlueHalo out of Huntsville, Alabama.

The new Army Second Lieutenants, Florida Tech Graduates, and MOAACC Members are:

- Nicholas King—Graduated from Florida Tech with a master’s degree in strategic communications. He was commissioned as an active-duty officer in the Chemical Corps. His first duty assignment will be at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.
- Jayoul Lee—Graduated from Florida Tech with a master’s degree in computer information systems. He was commissioned as an active-duty officer in Cyber Branch. His first duty assignment is at Fort Eisenhower in Georgia
- Danial Ochoa-Perez—Graduated from Florida Tech with a master’s degree in human resource management. He was commissioned into the Adjutant General Branch as an active-duty officer. His first duty assignment will be at Camp Humphreys in the Republic of Korea.

LTC Rob Stillings, Florida Tech Professor of Military Science, also congratulated the new Lieutenants. Colonel Steve Bond, US Army-Retired, Past President of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Cape Canaveral Chapter (MOAACC), and current President of the MOAA Florida Council was on hand congratulate the new officers and present them with “Gold Bar” commissioning sets provided by the chapter, and membership in MOAA.



MOAACC GOOD DEEDS FOUNDATION

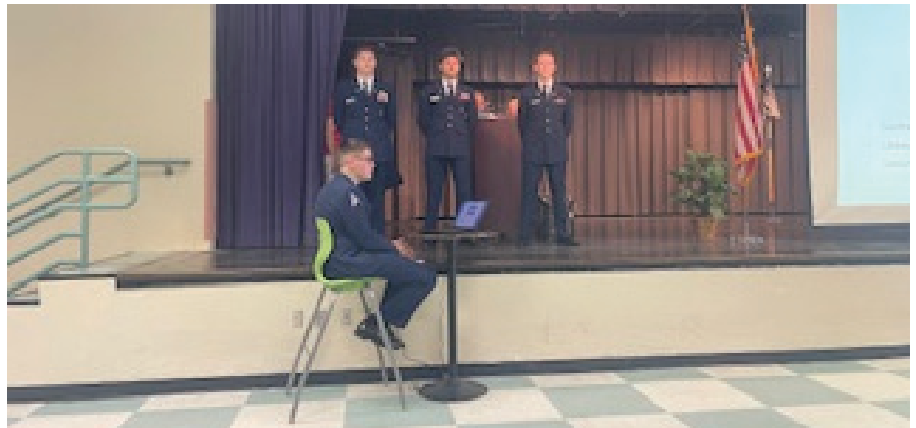
Donn Weaver, CPT USA (fmr), President Good Deeds Foundation

MOAACC Supports JROTC Award Ceremonies



At Cocoa Beach High School Don Roett (center) and Hans Hunt (dressed in SAR garb making a big hit in CBHS Minutemen Territory) present the award to the incoming JROTC battalion Commander with LTC Robert Erick, USA Ret JROTC instructor and also MOAACC member standing proudly.

After our great 15 April ROTC, JROTC and Other Cadet MOAA Medal Award Ceremony at IRCC, MOAACC members, organized by Hans Hunt at the Student Affairs Committee, still had to go out over a month-long period to present those awards to the 2025 winners at individual HS award ceremonies. Those were great events as MOAACC was included with many other veteran organizations which provide cadet recognition this time each year and these were in front of 3-400 people including cadets, parents, siblings, faculty etc. Here are two examples.



At Space Coast jr/sr HS three cadets who have enlisted in the military this spring were honored

Regional Army JROTC Surprises MOAACC



L-R: SFC Freddy Moreno, Weaver, LTC Pavone, and SFC Mercer Celebrate the Recognition

Cocoa HS JROTC Instructors invited GDF Pres Weaver to come to the school first thing on Friday, 16 May. They did not say why. It was the last day of school for Seniors, and all were attending a senior breakfast with the Principal. It turned out to be a great surprise for MOAACC's Good Deeds and Student Affairs missions was waiting to be presented. The US Army SE Region JROTC 6th BDE Cadet Command CO Col Jason Dumser and Command Sergeant Major Joshua Dumond had sent MOAACC a Challenge Coin and Certificate of Appreciations. LTC Joe Pavone and his team mounted it and read the citation while handing both to us through Weaver. The Certificate had to have a single name, but the honor is clearly for all in GDF, SAC and MOAACC who support our youth like no other Chapter.

The Army has 7 JROTC units in Brevard of the 14 total we support. They confirmed to Cocoa, which is this year's JROTC coordinating Unit, that what MOAACC does is unmatched in their region. They wanted to pass the award at the JROTC Awards luncheon in April, but you know bureaucracy!

Thanks to all who put supporting our youth in high regard while they "Never Stop Serving"!

Mission Accomplished at Heritage HS



COL Jeff Rogers, USA Ret Wraps up his three classes on the Vietnam War. Note: The military items which abound in Mr. Yount's classroom.

For three days over a six-week period, five members of the county wide Vets Back to Class program, four of whom are MOAACC members, covered classes in the history of WWI, WWII and Vietnam War eras. Heritage teacher, Matt Yount, a US Army Veteran, who just started in 2024-25 teaching sophomore history, reported he was very grateful for the effort which included six classes all three days. VMC Museum traveling trunks made the classes even more stimulating. Thanks to Bill Vanasse, Doug Bisset, Jeff Rogers, John Fravel, and Donn Weaver for making it happen.

If you are interested in joining the 12 VBC volunteers next school year, please contact VBC Coordinator, Donn Weaver. (757-871-6576)



SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION

Col D Brent Baysinger, USAF (Ret)

Decision Time

Wow time flies! We find ourselves jumping into June which means it's the final weeks for eligible candidates to apply for a 2025 MOAACC Scholarship. Eligible candidates include prospective college sophomores up all the way through doctoral students. A scholarship candidate can be eligible through his or her MOAACC sponsor (parent/grandparent); or through a retired military sponsor (parent/grandparent) where the candidate or sponsor resides in Brevard county. It's not too late to apply! We want to serve as many deserving students as we can, and we can only achieve this goal with our MOAACC members advocating among their families to utilize this membership benefit.

Once the submission period closes on June 15, our Scholarship Selection Committee will immediately begin working diligently over the next week to examine all applications and identify the awardees. One of the most

rewarding aspects of the scholarship process is reviewing all the achievements and goals of the applicants who will be our future leaders. We still have room for more volunteers to help with the process, so please consider volunteering for this year's selection by emailing us at moaaccscholarships@gmail.com!

Lastly, we continue to seek financial contributions. The MOAACC Scholarship Corporation will support our future leaders while helping to combat high inflation raging through the economy. As the Scholarship Corporation is a 501(c)3 organization, your contributions are fully tax deductible and can help to optimize your tax strategy for the year. Always consult with your financial planner to see how this would work best for you, and contributions of any amount are welcome, but please consider becoming a Distinguished Donor (\$1,000 or more) or a Named Donor (\$10,000 or more). Thank you for your consideration and good luck to all applicants!

VyStar Foundation is a proud sponsor of MOAACC

On behalf of The Military Officers Association of America (MOAACC), we extend our heartfelt gratitude for VyStar Foundation's support of The Good Deeds Foundation, allowing us to continue our mission of service and camaraderie. As Vice President of the Good Deeds Foundation and a VyStar member for four decades I am proud of their unwavering support of the military community. Thank you for standing with us as we serve and support those who have served our nation.

Mike Gautreaux

Colonel, USMC (ret)

Vice President, MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation



VyStar
Foundation

VyStar
Foundation

Date

MOAACC Good Deeds Foun.
Twenty Thousand
Military Grant

ADVERTISEMENT

★ ★ EVERY DAY IS VETERANS DAY! ★ ★



Every day is Veterans Day at One Senior Place! Join us as we celebrate 20 years as Central Florida's trusted resource for all things related to aging successfully. At One Senior Place, seniors and their families enjoy direct access to dozens of independent providers of senior products and services.

Seniors & Caregivers: We're your one-stop source for information, referrals and senior services!

One Senior Place

- Information & resources for seniors
- Daily events and seminars
- Free consultation with a Certified Nurse Care Manager
- Dozens of senior-focused businesses on site
- Free assistance with veterans benefits



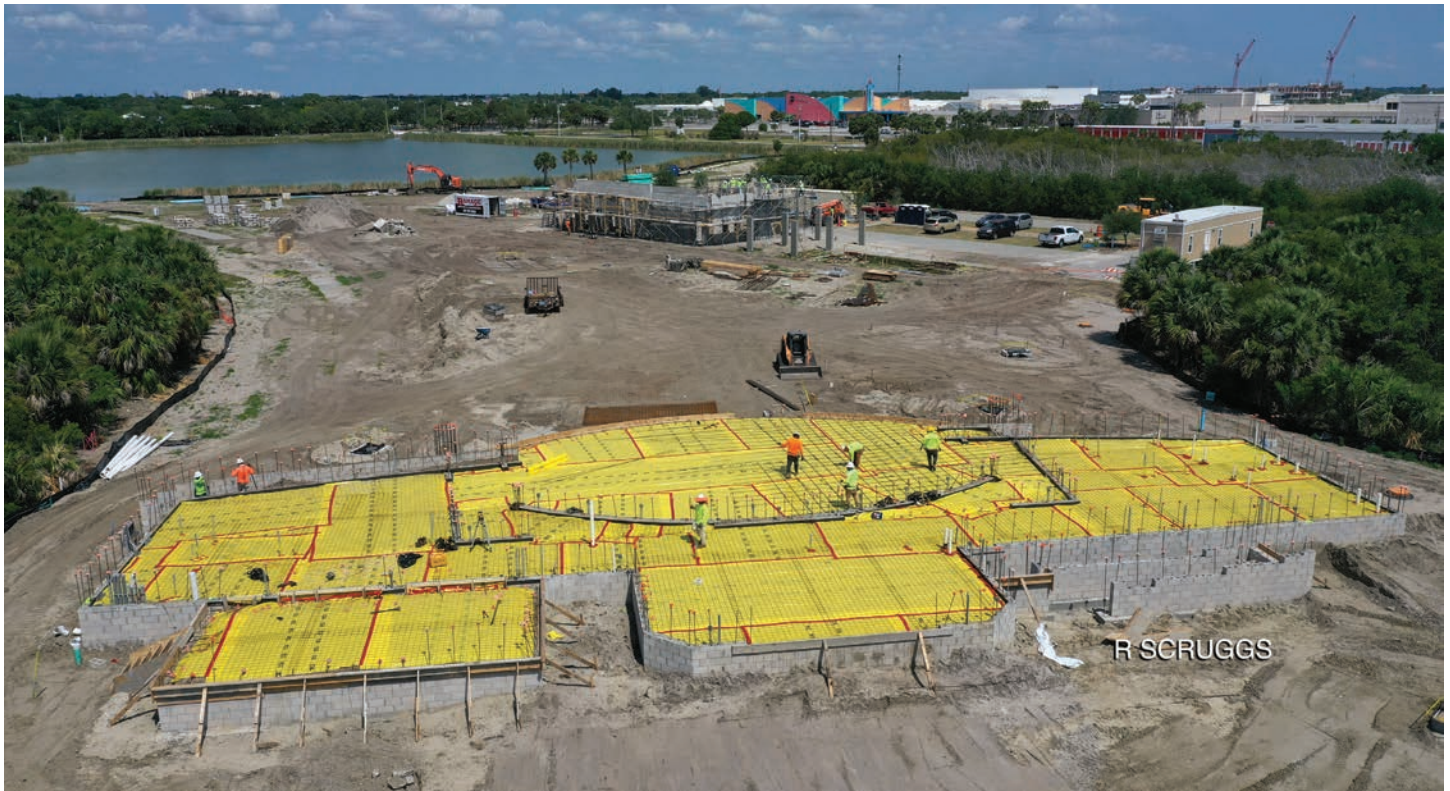
OneSeniorPlace.com • 321-751-6771 • 8085 Spyglass Hill Road, Viera, Florida 32940

ADVERTISEMENT



VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER UPDATE

Brevard Veterans Memorial Center A Report By Dean Schaff and Donn Weaver



The new amphitheater just before the cement was poured on 05 May.

We hope you are enjoying the early summer in Florida and wanted to encourage you to cool off and visit the Military Museum at the “new” Brevard Veterans Memorial Center and Park. Why do we say new? Two reasons come to mind: First, by the time you read this the final approval to move then old VMC and Brevard Veterans Council into one 501c3 should be completed. The BVMC will mean more membership slots, easier 501c3 donations and fund raising and less confusion. Second, the amazing \$8.2 M project in the BVMC Park is halfway done and will create an amazing venue and upgrade for the community, veterans, JROTC and more. Check out some photos here.

As of this writing more than 30 MOAACC members are also lifetime members of the BVMC and make major contributions there as well as with us. Please visit over the summer to check out the Museum, library, and Plaza while checking out Park construction through the 1960's era nuclear submarine periscope that goes through the roof literally.

Check out the BVMC Calendar on our MOAACC website for events there and all over the county.

Contact Dean (Pres) or Donn (VP) for any information or an application!!!!



New Bricks in the BVMC Plaza and power washing the A6 Navy Jet from Cold War days.



Pouring began at 0200 with 27 cement truck in paired succession.



Directory

MOAACC OFFICERS / DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

CAPT Steve Cusick, USN Ret

1ST VICE PRESIDENT, PROGRAMS & SPEAKERS

Captain Rosa Reich, USAF Fmr

2ND VICE PRESIDENT, MEMBERSHIP

LTC Hans Hunt, USA Ret

SECRETARY

CAPT Arnold Lim, USN Ret

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

CDR Eric Gardner, USN Ret

TREASURER

COL Mike Schroeder, USA Ret

ASSISTANT TREASURER

LTC William "Bill" Vanasse, USA Ret

MASTER-AT-ARMS

CW4 Jose Prieto, USA Ret

ASSISTANT MASTER-AT-ARMS

Colonel Mike Notley, USAF Ret

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(Term expires Jan 2026)

Colonel Rick Kniseley, USAF

CDR Ken Lowe, USN Ret

LCDR Dean Schaaf, USN Ret

(Term expires Jan 2027)

Colonel John Franco, USAF Ret

Ellie Joy, Surviving Spouse

CW5 Michael Tucker, USA Ret

CHAPTER LIAISONS & COMMITTEES

AUXILIARY (See SSM Liaison) Chair

AWARDS CHAIR

CDR Ken Lowe, USNR Ret

AWARDS NOMINATING COMMITTEE

COL Steve Bond, USA Ret

Lt Col Brian Whalen, USAF Ret

BREVARD VETS RESOURCE NETWORK

LCDR Dean Schaaf, USN Ret

BUDGET & FINANCE

COL Mike Schroeder, USA Ret

CAPE CANAVERAL LADIES

Cozette Merritt, SSM

CHAPLAINS

CH (Lt Col) Thomas Unrath, USAF Ret

CH (MAJ) Williams P. Adams, USA Ret

COCOA BEACH CHAMBER (MAC)

LCDR Dean Schaaf, USN Ret

CURRENT AFFAIRS FORUM

MAJ Mike Kahanca, USA Ret

ENTERTAINMENT / EVENTS

VACANT

HEALTH OF THE CHAPTER

Ellie Joy, SSM - (321) 757-0193

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

National (Chairman):

BG John McMahon, USA Ret

State/Local (Deputy Chairman):

VACANT

LUNCHEON COORDINATOR

Grace Catron, SPM

MEDICAL & VA CLINIC LIAISON

LTC Harry "Skip" Taylor, USA Ret

MEMBERSHIP

LTC Hans Hunt USA Ret

Jan Clark, Hon Mbr, Secretary

NOMINATING (Leadership-2025)

Colonel Gary Eppler, USAF Ret

ON-THE-GO LUNCHEON COORDINATOR

Toni Lowe, SpM

SERVICE LIAISONS

US Army

COL Steve Bond, US Army Ret

US Marine Corps

Col Mike Gautreaux, USMC Ret

US Navy & NOTU

COL Pat Keane, US Army Ret

LCDR Dan Levy, USN Former

US Air Force

Colonel John Franco, USAF Ret

920 RQW

Col Brent Baysinger, USAF Ret

US Space Force

Colonel Susan Dabrowski, USAF Ret

US Coast Guard

CWO4 Dan McIntyre, USCGR Ret

USPHS & NOAA

CAPT Rita Shapiro, USPHS Ret

SPEAKERS BUREAU

COL Stephen Bond, USA Ret

STORE

COL Jerry M. Gill, USA Ret

COL Patrick J. Keane, USA Ret

STUDENT, VETERAN &

COMMUNITY LIAISONS

VA Clinic / PSFB Medical Clinic

LTC Skip Taylor, USA Ret

Student Affairs (JROTC & ROTC)

LT Dan Wilson, USN Ret

SURVIVOR ASSISTANCE

Lt Col Charles Shaw, USAF Ret

CAPT Don England, USN Ret

CH (Lt Col) Thomas Unrath, USAF Ret

SURVIVING SPOUSE LIAISON &

AUXILIARY COMMITTEE

Ellie Joy, SSM

THURSDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

CAPT Steve Cusick, USN Ret

CAREER SUPPORT Transition (TCS)

Vacant

VETS BACK TO CLASS (JOE FOSS)

CPT Donn Weaver, USA Fmr

VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER

LCDR Dean Schaaf, USN Ret

CPT Donn Weaver, USA Fmr

VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

LTC Harry "Skip" Taylor, USA Ret

Lt Col Brian Whalen, USAF Ret

SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION

President

RADM Wayne Justice, USCG Ret

Secretary

CAPT Arnold Lim, USNR Ret

Treasurer

Col Brent Baysinger, USAF Ret

Assistant Treasurer

Roslyn Bates, SSM

BOARD MEMBERS

LCDR Daniel Levy, USN Fmr

CDR Fred J. Reeg, USN

COL Michael J Schroeder, USA

ADVISORS & SELECTION

CHAIR: CAPT Scott Hartley, USCG Ret

CDR Fred J. Reeg, USN Ret

LTC Bob Sears, USA Ret

COL Mike Schroeder, USA Ret

DONOR RELATIONS

LCDR Daniel Levy, USN Fmr

GOOD DEEDS FOUNDATION

President

CPT Donn Weaver, USA Fmr

Vice President

Col Mike Gautreaux, USMC Ret

Treasurer

RADM Wayne Justice, USCG Ret

BOARD MEMBERS

1LT Doug Bisset, USA Fmr

Capt Larry Jackson, USAF Fmr

MAJ Mike Kahanca, USA Ret

CWO4 Dan McIntyre, USCG Ret

LTC Harry "Skip" Taylor, USA Ret

COL Tom Rozek, USAR Ret Board

COL Mike Schroeder, USA, Ret.

LT Dan Wilson, USN Fmr

LTC Jay Welch, USA, Ret

DONATIONS:

MOAACC SCHOLARSHIP FUND

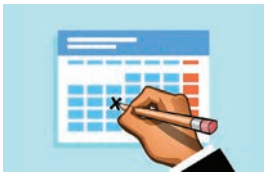
P.O. BOX 254708

Patrick AFB, FL 32925-4708

MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation

PO Box 320358

Cocoa Beach, FL 32932



Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar

June 2025 & Beyond

Contact VMC for any additions or other information.

NOTE: Some Events Change in-between our monthly mailing of the VMC Calendar.

Keep up to date with those changes using our web link:

<https://veteransmemorialcenter.org/upcoming-veterans-events/>

Contact donnweaver2020@gmail.com for more information or to participate.

JUNE

05 Jun — Orlando VA Medical Center 10-Year Anniversary Celebration 1000-1100. Lake Nona Amphitheater. VA Leadership remarks; historical review; learning about services; Golf Cart shuttle. Space is limited so RSVP via [OrlandoVAMedicalCenter10YearAnniversary](mailto:OrlandoVAMedicalCenter10YearAnniversary@va.gov) via VA Orlando Health Care/Veterans Affairs.

JULY

04 Jul — Annual BCSO Merritt Island Independence Day Parade 1000 start at Merritt Island HS with finish at Edgewood HS or on to BVMC. Details in early June.

05 Jul — Cocoa Beach Independence Day Parade - Through the Decades 1000-1130. Details and register in early June.

15 Jul — Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation third Annual Christmas in July Fundraiser 1700-1900 at Rising Tide Tap and Table, 523 Glen Cheek Dr Port Canaveral. Event is a raffle drawing party with each ticket at \$100 which admits two people for plenty of food, drinks, live auction. Great raffle prize. Purchase tickets (limited to 250) from CCLF Board Members or info@CanaveralLight.org. 321-351-5052.

AUGUST

03 Aug — Annual Military Order of Purpose Heart Honor Ceremony 1400 at VMC Gray Hall. Program details in June. Nine Purple Heart Recipients from Vietnam to Afghanistan will be recognized.

SEPTEMBER

11 Sep — 09/11 Remembrance Ceremony BVMC Plaza and Gray Hall 1630 - 1900. Sponsored by Club 1013, MOAACC GDF and BVMC. Program details in July.

OCTOBER

03 Oct — Annual NVHS Dinner and Fundraiser to support homeless and at-risk veterans and their families. Save the Date. The Difference a Decade Has Made. 1700 -2100 at Radisson Resort by the Port. Hosted by Brevard's Constitutional Officers Semi to formal attire. Sign up starting in July.

NOVEMBER

08 Nov — Annual St Francis Reflections 5K Fundraiser at VMC Plaza and Park. 0800 - 1200 Includes veteran recognition and pinning. Details in August.

08 Nov — Veterans Day Recognition VyStar Dinner at Holiday Inn Viera Conference Center 1715-2030. Sponsored by MOAA Cape Canaveral Chapter Good Deeds Foundation. To honor and express our and community gratitude to individuals, associations and projects that make a significant impact on military veterans in Brevard County. Sponsors at levels from \$10K, to \$5K to Tables of 10 at \$1250. to become a sponsor out seek more information go to GDFD.ORG or contact event chair Larry Jackson on 321-242-1331 or larryj59@gmail.com.

08 Nov — Annual VFW Post 10131 and City of Cape Canaveral Veterans Day Parade 1000-1130. Details in August. This year VFW Post in Cape Canaveral is hosting and managing the event.

09 Nov — 8th Annual Homestretch 5K by NVHS for Homeless and at-Risk Veterans. 0800-11100. Eau Gallie Arts District at the Square Park. Save the date. For moire info and to sign up as a sponsor and/or runner see: runsignup.com/Homestretch5K

11 Nov — VMC (and many other) Veterans Day Ceremony. 0930 - 1030 VMC Plaza/Park. Details in August with possible Parade of Colors that afternoon in the new Amphitheater/Park. May also serve as Ribbon Cutting for the Amphitheater and expanded VM Park.

DECEMBER

06 Dec — Merritt Island Community and Gold Star Family Christmas Tree Grand Illumination at expands Veterans Memorial Center Park an Plaza Detail in September.

13 Dec — National Wreaths Across America Day at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery and five other Brevard Locations. Details in September.

Please help us spread the word and advise of any new events.

Donn Weaver

Vice President , Veterans Memorial Center

757-871-6576 | donnweaver2020@gmail.com

STAY UP TO DATE - VISIT:

www.MOAACC.org

Are you receiving the MOAACC Five Things e-News?

Are you a published MOAACC Author?

← Check out the MOAACC website for more information.

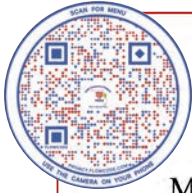
Hero Fest 2025 at VMC Was a Big Hit

By: Donn Weaver

While a drizzle may have kept many away, more than 900 people, including many first responder families, attended the 04 May Hero Vest at Brevard Veterans Memorial Center honoring all First Responders of Brevard County. The event is sponsored every year for the past seven years by Back Brevard Heroes, led by Sherri Centore and Kimberley Ticker, whose board raises money and sponsors all year long. As always, the VMC hosted the event and MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation served as a major supporter. From a great BBQ to drinks to popcorn, cotton candy and ice cream cones all was served free to the crowd as the community showed its full support to all first responders. Many veterans were there as well since about 30 percent of many units in law enforcement are also veterans. Both groups reflect service before self. Thank you BBH and all First Responders.



Please Renew Your 2025 Membership!



The Military Officers Association of America
Cape Canaveral Chapter (MOAACC)
P.O. Box 254186, Patrick SFB, FL 32925-4186
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/ INFORMATION UPDATE.

☐ New Chapter Annual ☐ New Chapter Life ☐ **ANNUAL RENEWAL** ☐ Change of Information

Name _____ Spouse's Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Rank _____ Service _____ Member DOB _____

Check appropriate box:

☐ Retired ☐ Active Duty ☐ Widow (er) ☐ Spouse of Member

☐ Regular ☐ Reserve ☐ Nat'l Gd ☐ Former Officer

Member of National MOAA? Y / N Member

If No, may we sign you up for a no-charge MOAA National Basic Membership? _____

Signature _____ Date _____



Chapter Membership \$20

Active Duty/Drilling Reserve:

First Year - No Cost

Life Membership

Age	Fee	Age	Fee
40-49	\$460	80-89	\$155
50-59	\$400	90-99	\$75
60-69	\$330	100+	No cost
70-79	\$235		

Life membership payable over three consecutive months. Make checks payable to MOAACC or pay online at MOAACC.org. Dues and Fees include subscription to **THE INTERCOM** News Magazine and Five Things e- Newsletter.



**INDIAN RIVER
COLONY CLUB**
The Place Patriots Call Home™



**GOLF & SOCIAL
MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE**



over **60** clubs and activities!



**Active
55+
Military
Community**



ColonyClub.com





**20th Annual
Good Deeds Foundation
MOAACC
Fundraiser Cruise**



**\$50 per Cabin
Donation to
Good Deeds Foundation**

**January 31-Feb 7,
2026**



**Celebrity Apex
7 Night Port Canaveral Round
Trip
Puerto Rico, St Kitts,
Dominican Republic**

**Aqua Class
(Includes Blu Restaurant)**

**\$2,500* Per Person (Classic Beverage
Package, Wi-Fi, Gratuities)**

\$2,000* Per Person (Gratuities only)

***Prices are subject to change.**

**\$500 per cabin non-refundable
deposit**

Balcony Cabin

**\$2,000* Per Person (Classic
Beverage Package, Gratuities)**

\$1,500* Per Person (Gratuities only)

***Prices are subject to change.**

**\$500 per cabin non-refundable
deposit**

Call Cruise Holidays of Viera

321-242-1331

larryj59@gmail.com



Veterans Back to Class: Still working in Brevard County After 10 Years (Aug 2025)

MOAACC and the Veterans Memorial Center (VMC) of Brevard County created a special program in 2015. Ten years later it *has* proven its value in dozens of schools on the Space Coast, including public, private and homeschooling groups. We call it Brevard Veterans Back to Class (VBC). We have 13 veteran volunteers all over the county. With Covid in 2020-21, VBC filmed 18 veterans covering key topics of value to schools. These tools are available online to all BPS teachers at all times. In 2024 VBC added STEM related programs including several BPS Science Fairs so far.

In 2024-25 twelve VBC volunteers spoke to 4,950 students in 17 schools/programs, sometimes bringing VMC Museum combat era trunks to share. VBC Reps spoke at JROTC Military Balls and other events as well. Teachers also continued to show our 18 video units on topics ranging from the Constitution to WWII to the GWOT. VBC helped spark 13 school fields trips to the VMC Museum and supported four Science Fairs, together involving more than 2000 students. The Education and Citizenship Armed Forces Coalition of the Space Coast (ECAC), formed in August 2024, completed a web site tool re military related education and Museum exploration. ECAC and BPS held a major May 2025 Military Enlistment Ceremony attended by 550 students.

Since 2015 VBC volunteers have presented programs to over 31,200 students at all grade levels.

Our best year still was 2016-17 when our volunteers visited 19 schools including elementary, middle and high schools and talked with 6280 students. We again hope to break that record in 2025-26 since we will again meet with dozens of BPS middle and high school social studies teachers and JROTC Instructors in early August 2025.

— The VBC Program offers links to the teachers who describe their needs for the presentations and allows at least 05 - 10 minutes each class period to the volunteer veteran to tell their story of service and how being a veteran has impacted their lives. Passing on ethos is crucial.

For More Information to schedule or volunteer contact Donn Weaver (MOAACC and VMC) 757-871-6576

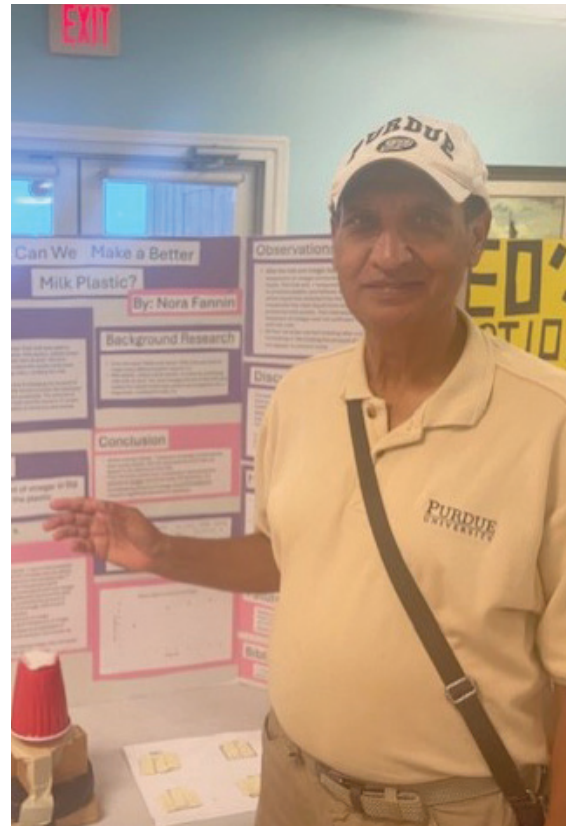
Science Fair



The event included 14 vendors ranging from the mobile library to a bounce house with over 30 parent volunteers setting up the festivities for the second year at VMC.



Education Expo and Science Fair a Big VMC Hit



Vets Back to Class STEM Rep Pankaj Sharma served as one of the judges with 26 great entries. MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation covered much of the cost for the event which had more than 100 children attend from this group set up for kids in home schooling.

Changes coming in June for Retired Soldiers who pay SBP monthly premiums directly

By DFAS Cleveland

Some Retired Soldiers need to pay monthly Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) or Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RCSBP) premiums directly instead of having them deducted from pay because their Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation pay offsets their retired pay. We call that direct remittance.

Most of these payments are handled by the U.S. Department of Treasury Centralized Receivables Service (CRS). When CRS receives the payment from the Retired Soldier, they report it to DFAS Retired and Annuitant (R&A) Pay to ensure the retiree's account is credited.

What you need to know

In June of this year, R&A Pay will begin issuing all monthly direct remittance SBP premium billing statements and collecting all SBP premium direct remittance payments instead of using the Treasury's CRS.

This means Retired Soldiers will need to either: (1) make their payments to a different mailing address or (2) change their electronic payments if they have them set up to pay to CRS directly or (3) use Pay.gov at <https://www.pay.gov/public/home> to pay DFAS.

In March, DFAS mailed a letter explaining the changes to all Retired Soldiers who will be affected. The letter will be followed by an emailed SmartDoc to the retirees who have a valid email address in myPay. Changes like this are one of the reasons it's important for retirees to keep their mailing address and email address updated with DFAS.

What you need to do

It's important that DFAS has your current mailing address so you receive the billing statement with new payment instructions. If your address has changed, DFAS has several convenient options for updating the mailing address on your retired pay account.

1. Use our askDFAS online tool to update your address: find out more on our Quick Tools webpage at <https://www.dfas.mil/raquicktools>.

2. Send a completed and signed DD Form 2866 to request we update your mailing address.

(A) Upload your signed form as a PDF using our askDFAS online upload tool. Find out more: <https://www.dfas.mil/retonlinetools>.

(B) Or, mail your form to:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service
U.S. Military Retired Pay
8899 E 56th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46249-1200

3. Change your address using myPay: <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.

4. Call our Customer Care Center during normal business hours to update your address: (800) 321-1080.

If your mailing address on file with DFAS is current, watch for the updated bill to arrive via postal mail in June 2025 or take action now to change your payment method!

You can make the change to one of the new payment options below to pay DFAS directly right now. You don't have to wait until June.

Automatic payments

If you have an electronic/automatic payment set up with your bank, ensure that you make the change early enough to send your June payment to DFAS instead of CRS.

Options for making SBP/RCSBP monthly premium payments to DFAS

If you do not receive the updated bill in June, or would like to start paying DFAS directly now, please see our Paying for SBP webpage for payment instructions: <https://www.dfas.mil/payforsbp>.

1. We strongly recommend making your payment online through the Pay.gov website. Pay.gov is available 24/7. Payments can be made using your checking/savings account or debit card using the DOD Military Retired Pay SBP Premium at: <https://www.pay.gov/public/form/start/1463931154> online form.

2. If you prefer, mail your SBP/RCSBP payments to the address below (payments mailed to any other address may be delayed). **Please note: beginning October 1, 2025, DFAS is unable to accept checks or money orders as payment.**

Defense Finance and Accounting Service, DFAS-CL

SBP Remittances

P.O. Box 979013

St. Louis, MO 63197-9000

3. Request to have your SBP monthly premium payments deducted from your VA Disability Compensation pay. Find more information here: <https://www.dfas.mil/payforsbp>.

Questions?

Watch for additional information over the coming weeks or check out the "Paying for SBP" webpage at the link above.

VMRI Opens with Moving Wreath Laying Ceremony at Wickham Park

By: Donn Weaver, Cpt (fmr) USA



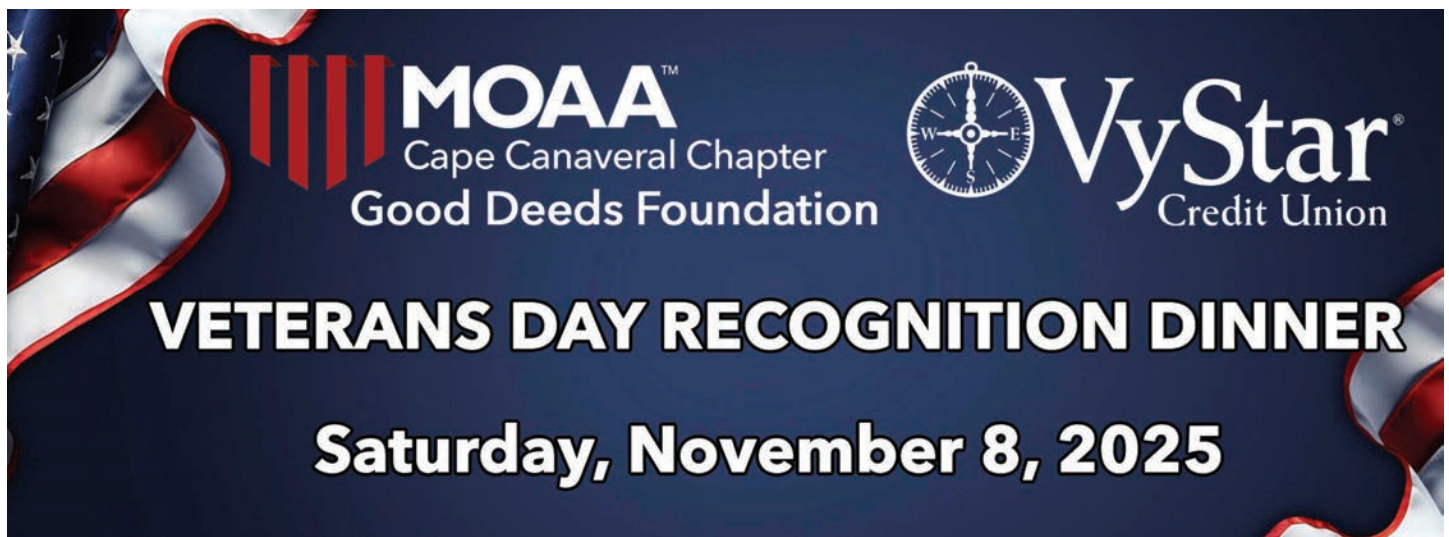
The 37th Annual Vietnam and GWOT Walls opening ceremony may have had a different feeling on 05 May when the Wreath Laying Ceremony Began, but it was well attended and moving as always. For the first time in 37 years of history of the event in Brevard, Vietnam Era veterans had passed the torch to a new generation of veterans from Desert Storm and later who create a new Organization for the event All Veteran Reunion Memorial, Inc (VMRI). The new leaders staged a great ceremony with many traditional elements, but some very different than years past when the Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard (VVB) ran the huge event which attracts thousands over the course of a full week (04 -11 May).

More than 115 Veteran and Civic Organizations paid their respect to the more than 58,000 KIA in Vietnam and more than 8000 so far killed in combating terrorism since the USS Cole. The events wrapped up just as rain began to fall about 1930 that night: An appropriate end to the ceremony.



MOAACC group with our recruiting and information canopy at the All Veterans Reunion in Wickham Park on Saturday, Melbourne on 10 May.





Location: Holiday Inn Viera Conference Center

Cocktails: 5:15 PM **Dinner:** 6:00 PM

Join us for an evening of honor and gratitude as we recognize individuals, associations, and projects that make a significant impact on military veterans in Brevard County. This special event will feature awards based on public nominations, and all proceeds will directly benefit the Military Officers Association of America, Cape Canaveral (MOAACC) Good Deeds Foundation (GDF).

GDF provides funding for JROTC/ROTC, Active Duty Military and Veterans Assistance programs in Brevard County.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Our dinner presents a unique opportunity for corporations, service organizations, and community groups to contribute to this meaningful cause while gaining visibility in the Brevard County community.

MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) organization.

Platinum Sponsor – \$10,000

- Two tables (20 seats)
- Full-page ad in the dinner program
- Logo featured in all recognition dinner advertisements
- Lobby display table at the event
- Listing on the MOAACC website Sponsors page

Gold Sponsor – \$5,000

- One table (10 seats)
- Half-page ad in the dinner program
- Logo featured in event advertisements

Table Sponsor – \$1,250

- One table (10 seats)

To Become a Sponsor

Go to GDFD.ORG

Contact

Larry Jackson

larryj59@gmail.com

[321-242-1331](tel:321-242-1331)



SOLEMN PRIDE

HORSE ADOPTION CAMPAIGN

SUPPORT US IN ADDING ANOTHER TEAM TO CONTINUING TO HONOR VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS

YOUR SUPPORT WILL ALLOW US TO CONTINUE HONORING VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS FOR ANOTHER 10 YEARS!



\$10 AND A SHARE CAMPAIGN

Support our nonprofit initiative in honoring veterans by donating \$10 and/or sharing this link.

Use the QR code or Solemnpride.org (support tab)



First decade of service has delivered over 700 interment honors to include:

Four Revolutionary soldiers

First Female General

SgtMajor of the Army

OTHER CEMEMONIES - WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA, AMERICAN POLICE HALL OF FAME

Five forgotten World War I Veterans

WWII Tuskegee Airman

WWII MIA for 82 Years

ADVERTISEMENT



ROBIN WILSON

REALTOR®

robin@robinwilson.realtor

(717) 421-9676

www.robinwilson.realtor

"Beloved, I pray you to prosper concerning all things and to be in good health, just as your soul prospers." 3 John 1,2

AVANTI WAY

ADVERTISEMENT



Standing with you at every stage.

1-800-247-2192

www.moaainsurance.com/plans

100392

ADVERTISEMENT



Pizza Gallery & Grill

WHERE FOOD BECOMES ART

Early Bird Trivia

Tuesdays 4pm – 6pm

Free to Play & Fun for ALL
GREAT Food & Drink
specials from 3-5pm!



UNCHAIN YOUR DINING

EAT & DRINK WITH THE LOCALS!

LOCATED AT THE AVENUE VIERA

pizzagalleryandgrill.com

ADVERTISEMENT

MOAACC Member Helps a Local Veteran

MOAACC and VFW Post 10131 member Jose Prieto, his wife Lupe and son Chris participated in an event helping a veteran that had come down on hard times. The event was held on April 24, 2025 and volunteers helped clean up the veteran's yard that had received numerous violations for not being within the City of Cape Canaveral's codes. Volunteers also did some minor repairs to the home. The veteran had gotten hurt in a fall and also needed knee surgery on both knees. Because of this he was wheelchair bound and was unable to do any upkeep or repairs to his home.



Jose Prieto picking up yard debris.



Jose Prieto demolishing a rotted wooden deck that had become a hazard.



Jose Prieto reinstalling paver stones that had shifted, were uneven and almost caused the owner to tumble over



Jose Prieto's wife, Lupe, assisting in the cleanup.



Jose Prieto's son Chris helping in the cleanup.

MOC

MEMBERS ONLY CORNER

Photos submitted by MOAACC members.

Get your photos featured in the Intercom!

- Send us your high resolution photos
- Please provide names and captions
- Send to: intercom@moaacc.org

DAV Chapter 32 Veteran Appreciation Dinner

On 14 May a number of MOAACC members attended the special DAV Chapter Veterans Appreciation Dinner at the Eau Gallie Civic Center. In addition to great food and turnover of new DAV Chapter leadership, the event included talks by Rob Medina, Palm Bay Mayor, Marine Veteran and Senior staffer for Rep Mike Haridopolos. MOAACC Speakers Bureau Member also takes with the 150n who attended about service and sacrifice with Memorial Day coming up, as well as the next day's Enlistment Ceremony of the Space Coast which is covered in this issue as well.



Weaver with DAV 32 Leaders and 103 year old WWII Vet Col Hal Gibson



Donn Weaver speaking at the DAV-32 Dinner

MOAACC Supports NOTU 2QFY25 Sailors of the Quarter

By LCDR Dan Levy, USN (former)

On Wednesday, May 14th, MOAACC participated in the Naval Ordnance Test Unit (NOTU) Mission Partners Social and Quarterly Awards Ceremony held at the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center in Merritt Island. MOAACC members in attendance included Lt Col Joe Tichich, USAF, LCDR Dean Schaaf, USN, and LCDR Dan Levy, USN. MOAACC presented certificates of recognition and \$100 awards each to the 2QFY25 Junior and Senior sailors of the Quarter: MT1(SS) Alberto Laborda Rosado and ETV2(SS) Ben Bolden McMillan. As MT1 Laborda Rosado is on temporary duty assignment, he was represented by his section chief, Chief Petty Officer James Hearing. The event was hosted by the new NOTU Commanding Officer CAPT Doug Pratt, USN, who highlighted the accomplishments of the two awardees while recognizing the community support by MOAACC and all the Mission Partners. In addition, NOTU continues to celebrate their 75th (diamond) anniversary of the command and its predecessor units. MOAACC's Good Deeds Foundation issued the cash awards. The next event is set for July 16, 2025, at 3pm and will return to the Greenhouse on Cape Canaveral Space Force Station. If you are interested in attending, please contact Dan Levy.





Steve Bond presents the MOAA Award to Cadet T'Mari Bowe from Eau Gallie High School at the EGHS JROTC Awards Ceremony on May 14th. T'Mari will be next year's Commander of the JROTC Corps of Cadets at EGHS. He also received \$500 from the MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation for receiving the award.



STARCOM - Space training and readiness command dinner.

L-R: Susie Dabrowski, MOAACC & Space force Association
MGEN Timothy Sejba, Commander, Space Force STARCOM
Chief master Sergeant Pogue, senior enlisted leader, STARCOM
Steve Cusick MOAACC President



COL Rick Knisely Presenting award to Cadet Kyle Ryan at Melbourne HS Award Ceremony



CWO4 Dan McIntyre USCGR (Ret) presents MOAA Certificate and cash from MOAACC Good Deeds to BM2 Thomas Decandia USCG, Station Port Canaveral, for outstanding performance of duty in maritime law enforcement and rescue of boaters in distress.

RHODES LAW, PA
ESTATE & MEDICAID PLANNING • PROBATE • GUARDIANSHIP

YOUR ELDER LAW EXPERT:

RUTH C. RHODES, ESQ.
BOARD CERTIFIED
ELDER LAW ATTORNEY

WHAT WE DO:

- MEDICAID PLANNING
- ESTATE PLANNING
- GUARDIANSHIP
- GUARDIAN ADVOCACY
- PROBATE ADMINISTRATION
- TRUST ADMINISTRATION

CALL FOR A FREE CONSULTATION!

321-610-4542
WWW.RHODESLAWPA.COM

OFFICES
MELBOURNE
& VIERA

ADVERTISEMENT

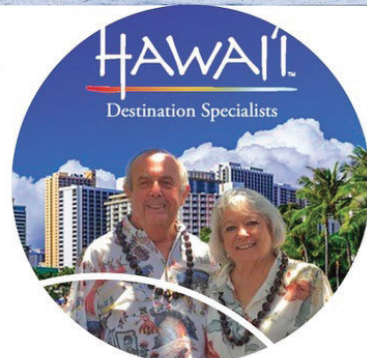


www.justcruisinviera.com

*Who plans your vacation
really does make a
difference.*

At Cruise Holidays of Viera, every guest and each vacation is special, and should be a memory-making event. Our Old Style Retro Service will have you returning time and time again as we guide you to that perfect travel vacation for you, your family or your friends.

**We specialize in small ship,
luxury cruises.**



Call us today 321-242-1331



Experts at Land and Sea



MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA CAPE CANAVERAL CHAPTER (MOAACC)

MOAACC Needs Your Support – Advertise!

The MOAACC is comprised of over 900 members of active, retired, former officers, their spouses and auxiliary members. The Chapter is the largest in Florida and one of the largest in the United States.

The INTERCOM is the primary communications vehicle for the Chapter. Copies are mailed to members, friends and other MOAA Chapters throughout Florida and the United States. Additional copies are disseminated at facilities on Patrick SFB and throughout Brevard County. *The INTERCOM* is also posted to our award-winning website (www.moaacc.org) and distributed to over 1,500 email subscribers. Members are patriotic and professional. We encourage our members to support businesses that support MOAACC.

These publications provide a unique opportunity for advertisers to reach military professionals throughout Brevard County.

ADVERTISEMENT ORDER FORM

	Size	Per Issue	12 Issues/12 months
Quarter Page Package ¹	~3 1/2" W x 4" H	\$100	\$1,000
Half Page Package ¹	~7 1/2" W x 5" H	\$200	\$2,000
Website Ad Only ²	www.moaacc.org		\$500

1. Includes publication in *The Intercom* printed/mailed version, website version and posted to our sponsor page/banner (12 months). Includes sponsor table at monthly luncheons.
2. Website ads posted to our sponsor page/banner (12 months).

Size of Ad: _____ Mo/Yr to Begin _____ Mo/Yr to End _____ # of Ads _____

Rate: _____ Total: _____ Company Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Company Contact: _____

Tel #: _____ Fax # _____

- Submit Ads in .pdf or .jpeg file format.
- Email Ad & completed order form to moaacapecanaval@gmail.com.
- Ads must be submitted by the 10th of the month preceding the first month of publication.
- Please make check payable to **MOAACC**.
- **Mail check and order form to:** MOAACC, PO Box 254186, Patrick SFB, FL 32925.
- For assistance, please contact Mike Schroeder at (910) 528-4337 or Larry Jackson at (321) 242-1331; or email us at moaacapecanaval@gmail.com.

Thank You For Your Support!!!

NEVER STOP SERVING.®